

# Lifting the Curtain of Lies on the Truths of War

By Hollie I. West

"The only reason I live in Washington is because of the Freedom of Information Act," says author Anthony Cave Brown, whose book "Bodyguard of Lies" about World War II espionage recently made the bestseller list.

"The FOI is an incredible thing when you come to think of it. I'm not saying everything I want is available, but no other government has made such information available to the public," he says.

Cave Brown used the FOI to edit a recently published book called "The Secret War Report of the OSS," the now declassified history of the U.S. intelligence service's war operations.

Right now, Cave Brown is riding the crest of a wave created by "Bodyguard," which was briefly on The New York Times bestseller list. CBS is laying plans to make a multi-part TV movie—in the style of "Rich Man, Poor Man"—based on the book. A decision on a production time for the pilot—already budgeted for more than \$1 million—will be made this week.

Meanwhile, he is writing a script for NBC for a TV show based on the

Philby affair, the incident involving British double agent Harold "Kim" Philby who defected to the Soviet Union in 1963.

The author of "Bodyguard," a 947-page account of intelligence activity leading up to the Normandy invasion, is a former London Daily Mail correspondent who became interested in espionage and deception as a child during World War II.

He and several other boys had a job stuffing bomb cases with hundreds of thousands of newspapers to be dropped on German troop positions.

The paper, "Nachrichten fur die Trupp" (Newspaper for the Troops), with 2.2 million copies published daily, provided German units with information about their defeats and retreats that was concealed from them by their own commanders. The purpose: to destroy troop morale.

"The truth was more insidious than propaganda," Cave Brown recalled the other day in his spacious Cathedral Avenue apartment.

There were other ploys—offers of cartons of Lucky Strikes and safe passage to German soldiers to encourage

surrender. So many Germans gave up, according to Cave Brown, that Luckies had to be rationed among Allied troops.

Cave Brown started the job after his school was closed and he had gone to work for the Luton News, where his father was an engraver. Soon the paper was taken over by the Office of War Information and set up as an organ to influence German morale.

Cave Brown later went from reporter on the Luton News to global correspondent for the Daily Mail and freelancer for many newspapers. Along the way, he encountered other cases of official deception.

He recalled an experience in Kuala Lumpur when officials of the British High Commission summoned him to their office and told him in hushed tones that then-President Sukarno of Indonesia had terminal cancer. He rushed back to his office and wrote the story for the London Times.

The information was false—Sukarno was suffering only from a non-terminal case of uremia. But the British knew that such a story could help erode the Indonesian people's exalted view of their leader, whom they regarded as a god.

Cave Brown denies ever participating in intelligence activity. "No right-thinking newspaperman would let himself get involved," he says.

The author, 47, got the idea for "Bodyguard" in 1963, but didn't begin working on it until 1968 when he left daily journalism and spent a year at Stanford University's Hoover Library of War, Revolution and Peace in the 20th Century.

The subject caught his eye, he says, "because it (Normandy) was the largest military operation in history. I wanted to do the other side of 'The Longest Day,' the covert side. We all know the battle plans leading up to Normandy, but there were a lot of unknowns concerning intelligence operations."

The book's title comes from a remark Churchill made at the Teheran Conference in 1943. "In wartime," said the British statesman, "truth is so precious that she should always be attended by a bodyguard of lies."

Cave Brown is now well along on a sequel to "Bodyguard," a book tentatively titled "On a Field of Black" that will examine Allied intelligence activities up to the death of Stalin. He plans a third volume to cover the years up to the Vietnam war.

The writer has spent considerable time here doing research at the National Archives.

"I think people are fascinated by the nightmares of the world," he says. "There're two kinds of intelligence. There is world war, and there is interest in contemporary affairs."

"Intelligence activity has changed. No longer is military espionage important. That's a secondary task. We all know that we have enough weapons to blow up everybody on earth."

"The primary task is the conflict of ideologies. The big questions are: Will the United States become a socialist state in the next century, and will the Soviet Union revert to a pure Russian state?"

"These are the questions facing agents. Countries are fighting battles of political ideology. Intelligence work has become a part of modern life."